

## COMMUNITY CHARACTER AND DESIGN IDEAS

Draft

rev. 2/24/06

**Desired Future Condition:** To maintain our friendly and inviting small town atmosphere that makes Gunnison unique and proud. To welcome diversity in developments and building design while preserving our historic character and traditions, including downtown and Western State College. To amplify pedestrian walkability with attractive streetscapes and sidewalks that draw people out of their vehicles and into the community.

### INSTRUCTIONS: Place your score of 1 to 5 in third column

1=STRONGLY DISAGREE 2=MOSTLY DISAGREE 3=NEUTRAL/UNKNOWN 4= MOSTLY AGREE 5=STRONGLY AGREE

Idea/Potential Policy Statement or Action Item	Comments	Degree of Support
1. <i>Establish</i> design <i>guidelines</i> that are architecturally compatible with community character for new commercial buildings, particularly for franchises, to minimize visual impact.	Other communities provide such guidelines	
2. <i>Require</i> design <i>standards</i> that are architecturally compatible with community character for new commercial buildings, particularly for franchises, to minimize visual impact.	Other communities require such standards, particularly designating design overlay districts for commercial or historic areas.	
3. <i>Establish</i> design <i>guidelines</i> that are architecturally compatible with community character for new residential structures.	Other communities, including Durango have a combination of incentives and requirements for new or expanded dwellings in older neighborhoods.	
4. <i>Require</i> design <i>standards</i> that are architecturally compatible with community character for new residential structures.	Same as above.	
5. Encourage the preservation of diverse architecture, old houses converted to businesses, and other buildings with historic character.	Suggested by the public. This will be facilitated by the CLG ordinance, which is currently being reviewed by staff and the City attorney.	

1=STRONGLY DISAGREE 2=MOSTLY DISAGREE 3=NEUTRAL/UNKNOWN 4= MOSTLY AGREE 5=STRONGLY AGREE

6. Work with Western State College to evaluate traffic patterns and promote links from the college to downtown, through appropriate streetscape design elements.	For example, consider designating Virginia Ave. or Georgia Ave. as “Mountaineer Boulevard”.	
7. Expand the Entrance Overlay District to include the vicinity near the airport.	Suggested by steering committee member; Also see “Visual Resources” and “Land Use and Growth”	
8. Ensure that newly annexed lands will complement economic viability and community character of the City. Also determine how the edges of the community will be defined.	.Annexation is anticipated in near future. This will be considered during the creation of an annexation resolution	
9. Amend the LDC to encourage opportunities for community interaction to allow for vibrant exchange among neighbors. For example, evaluate existing permitting regulations and determine appropriate locations for vendors to offer sidewalk service and special events.	Increased foot traffic spurs more business. Sidewalks can become hosts to art displays and outside shopping. Simplifying the procedure makes it easier for businesses to connect with customers.	
10. Evaluate multimodal standards, such as sidewalk standards, bike lane standards, and road design standards to allow for more pedestrian walkability and multimodal transportation.	Will also be cross referenced in transportation chapter. For example, should sidewalks be required on both sides of a street in new developments.	
11. Provide incentives to encourage existing sidewalks in existing developments.	The 50/50 concrete program could be expounded on.	
12. Prioritize locations for walkability and multimodal transportation, for example the Central Business District and school zones. Include these in the Capital Improvements Budget.	Past development patterns of separating uses have required auto dependency, and street standards designed for vehicles, not people. This will be cross referenced to the transportation chapter.	

1=STRONGLY DISAGREE 2=MOSTLY DISAGREE 3=NEUTRAL/UNKNOWN 4= MOSTLY AGREE 5=STRONGLY AGREE

13. Encourage more aesthetic streetscapes that are functional in snow country, such as benches, gardens, street edge landscaping, ornamental light fixtures, water features (where feasible), hanging flower baskets, banners and works of art.	Suggested by the public and steering committee member, and modified by the steering committee.	
14. Continue to plant trees throughout the community and preserve existing trees during new construction.	This has already been implemented and has contributed a great deal to our community's ambience.	
15. Educate the community on species viability in our climate to better facilitate the live cover requirement in the Land Development Code.	Obtain handouts from local organizations to be distributed with landscaping codes.	
16. Work with the County Trails Commission to develop pedestrian trail standards.	This will also be cross referenced in the parks, rec and open space chapter.	
17. Encourage compact growth and avoid sprawl.	Will also be cross referenced in the land use chapter.	
18. Evaluate the zoning map and land development code so industrial and commercial lands are situated in locations that complement community character.	Suggested by steering committee member. This will also be cross referenced in the land use chapter, and will be incorporated into the LDC.	
19. Ensure that the ditch system is maintained, as it is a valuable part of our community character.	This will also be cross referenced in the utility chapter.	

1=STRONGLY DISAGREE 2=MOSTLY DISAGREE 3=NEUTRAL/UNKNOWN 4= MOSTLY AGREE 5=STRONGLY AGREE